

Determination of NEPA Adequacy (DNA)
U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management

FIELD OFFICE: Stillwater Field Office, Carson City District

NEPA NUMBER: DOI-BLM-NV-C010-2011-0515-DNA

CASEFILE PROJECT NUMBER:

PROPOSED ACTION TITLE/TYPE: Oil and Gas Leasing of approximately 10,720 acres.

LOCATION/LEGAL DESCRIPTION: Preliminary list of lease parcels

NV-11-12-001 2560.000 Acres
T.0130N, R.0350E, 21 MDM, NV
Sec. 001 ALL; 002 ALL; 003 ALL; 004 ALL

NV-11-12-002 2560.000 Acres
T.0130N, R.0350E, 21 MDM, NV
Sec. 009 ALL; 010 ALL; 011 ALL; 012 ALL

NV-11-12-003 1760.000 Acres
T.0130N, R.0350E, 21 MDM, NV
Sec. 013 ALL; 016 NW; 017 ALL; 019 E2;

NV-11-12-010 1920.000 Acres
T.0130N, R.0360E, 21 MDM, NV
Sec. 018 ALL; 019 ALL; 029 ALL;

NV-11-12-011 1920.000 Acres
T.0130N, R.0360E, 21 MDM, NV
Sec. 030 ALL; 031 ALL; 032 ALL;

APPLICANT: Stillwater Field Office, CCDO, BLM

A. Description of the Proposed Action and any applicable mitigation measures

The BLM is proposing to lease 5 parcels covering approximately 10,720 acres of public land for oil and gas exploration and development in Nye County, Nevada on December 13, 2011. Lease issuance alone does not authorize any ground disturbing activities to explore for or develop oil and gas beyond casual use without site-specific approval for the intended operation. Such approval would require a separate site-specific environmental analysis.

B. Land Use Plan (LUP) Conformance

LUP Name: **Carson City Field Office Consolidated Resource Management Plan**
Date Approved: May 9, 2001

The proposed action is consistent with the applicable land use plan because it is clearly consistent with the following land use plan decisions, objectives, terms, conditions:

Objective 1: Encourage development of energy and mineral resources in a timely manner to meet national, regional and local needs consistent with the objectives for other public land uses.

Objective 2: Oil, gas, and geothermal exploration and production upon BLM land are conducted through leases with the Bureau and are subject to terms and stipulations to comply with all applicable federal and state laws pertaining to various considerations for sanitation, water quality, wildlife, safety, and reclamation. Stipulations may be site specific and are derived from the environmental analysis process.

C. Identify applicable National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) documents and other related documents that cover the proposed action.

Carson City District Office – Fluid Mineral Leasing within Six Areas on the Carson City District, DOI-BLM-NV-C030-2009-003-EA.

D. NEPA Adequacy Criteria

1. Is the new proposed action a feature of, or essentially similar to, an alternative analyzed in the existing NEPA document(s)? Is the project within the same analysis area, or if the project location is different, are the geographic and resource conditions sufficiently similar to those analyzed in the existing NEPA document(s)? If there are differences, can you explain why they are not substantial?

The proposed action is within the project area analyzed in the 2009 EA and is identical to an alternative analyzed therein.

2. Is the range of alternatives analyzed in the existing NEPA document(s) appropriate with respect to the new proposed action, given current environmental concerns, interests, and resource values?

Yes, environmental concerns, interests and resource values have not changed at all since the completion of the 2009 EA. The range of alternatives in the 2009 EA is still appropriate since the environmental constraints of oil and gas leasing have not changed.

3. Is the existing analysis valid in light of any new information or circumstances (such as, range- land health standard assessment, recent endangered species listings, and updated lists of BLM-sensitive species)? Can you reasonably conclude that new information and new circumstances would not substantially change the analysis of the new proposed action?

Yes, the anticipated impacts to the resources have not changed. The proposed action will not have any adverse effect on the human health or environment. Any changes to lists of sensitive or endangered species would be addressed in a site specific environmental

analysis should any future activity be proposed. A full interdisciplinary team convened a field visit to the lease parcel sites on June 9, 2011 – no concerns were identified.

4. Are the direct, indirect, and cumulative effects that would result from implementation of the new proposed action similar (both quantitatively and qualitatively) to those analyzed in the existing NEPA document?

Yes, the 2009 EA analyzed cumulative impacts on relevant resources. The cumulative impacts to public lands resulting from oil and gas leasing would remain unchanged from those analyzed in the 2009 EA. A full interdisciplinary team convened a field visit to the lease parcel sites on June 9, 2011 – no concerns were identified.

5. Are the public involvement and interagency review associated with existing NEPA document(s) adequate for the current proposed action?

Yes, oil and gas leasing was analyzed in the 2009 EA which describes the public involvement. Consultation with other agencies and interested parties was conducted for that document. Letters were sent to Nye County Commissioners regarding the upcoming lease offerings within their jurisdiction. The Yomba Shoshone and Fallon Paiute Shoshone Tribes will be notified via letter of the proposed leasing action.

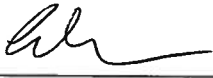
E. Persons/Agencies/BLM Staff Consulted

<u>Name</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Resource/Agency Represented</u>
Linda Appel	Rangeland Management Specialist	BLM Carson City District
John Axtell	Wild Horse and Burro Specialist	BLM Carson City District
Ed Klimasauskas	Geologist	BLM Carson City District
Jill Devaurs	Rangeland Management Specialist	BLM Carson City District
Erik Pignata	Realty Specialist	BLM Carson City District
Dave Schroeder	Natural Resource Specialist	BLM Carson City District
Gabriel Venegas	Hydrologist	BLM Carson City District
Dan Westermeyer	Recreation Planner	BLM Carson City District
John Wilson	Wildlife Biologist	BLM Carson City District
Jason Wright	Archaeologist	BLM Carson City District

Note: Refer to the EA/EIS for a complete list of the team members participating in the preparation of the original environmental analysis or planning documents.

Conclusion

Based on the review documented above, I conclude that this proposal conforms to the applicable land use plan and that the NEPA documentation fully covers the proposed action and constitutes BLM's compliance with the requirements of the NEPA.

 7/11/11 *Carla James, Supervisor, Geology 7-11-11*

Signature of Project Lead

 07/11/2011

Signature of NEPA Coordinator



Signature of Responsible Official

Date 07/19/2011

Note: The signed Conclusion on this Worksheet is part of an interim step in the BLM's internal decision process and does not constitute an appealable decision. However, the lease, permit, or other authorization based on this DNA is subject to protest or appeal under 43 CFR Part 4 and the program-specific regulations.